



City of New Bedford  
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

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Date: June 20, 2007  
For Immediate Release

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### **Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board Lands \$499,923 Grant to Benefit New Bedford's Manufacturing Industry**

**New Bedford, Massachusetts** - The Greater New Bedford Advanced Manufacturing Initiative (AMI), a proposal led by the Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board, Inc. (GNBWIB) was awarded a \$499,923 Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund grant, funded through Commonwealth Corporation, to train area workers to meet the changing need of the high tech manufacturing industry. The grant is part of \$11 million in state funding distributed across Massachusetts that enables communities to implement workforce development best practices to grow the skilled workforce in critical and emerging industries.

"This grant allows us to bring the private and public sector to the same table to work collectively for a stronger, more robust economy. Greater New Bedford has a dedicated, intelligent workforce and this grant will be instrumental in transitioning employees to high skills, high wage jobs," said Senator Montigny a leader in economic and workforce development.

"The city continues to pursue the return of our tax dollars in the form of grants such as this, which enable our local priorities to be realized. Workforce training is a hands on approach to develop and grow the area labor force which will strengthen the New Bedford economy and lead to the enhancement of the quality of life for all residents of our city," said Mayor Scott W. Lang of the funding.

This grant will provide manufacturers who strive for global competitiveness and specialization, with real solutions that bridge traditional worker skills to new, more technical skills. Said Len Coriaty, Executive Director of the Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board, "Competitiveness in advanced manufacturing in the global economy is heavily dependant on the continued skill development of the workforce. With this grant, the state is partnering with manufacturing companies to fund this

training, which will ultimately fuel economic growth, provide better jobs, and help area companies maintain their competitive advantage.”

AMI will train over 550 incumbent employees in demand-driven lean manufacturing concepts designed to enable career growth. The program will also target 84 potential workers to prepare them for an advanced manufacturing environment by incorporating lean manufacturing concepts into work readiness training. As partnering members of this proposal, New Bedford manufacturers including Aerovox Corp., AFC Cable Systems, Inc., Precix, Inc., and Nameplates for Industry, Inc., as well as Marion-based Lockheed Martin Sippican, Inc., will benefit from the workforce development grant. Partners will also be contributing to the project through \$234,152 in matching funds (for example, paying employee wages while in training and in-kind support services). The grant will be managed by New Directions Southcoast, Inc. and training will be provided primarily through Bristol Community College, with support from the Greater New Bedford Career Center and LifeStream, Inc.

Mike Walther, President & CEO at Precix<sup>®</sup> observed, “Today’s automotive companies are sourcing products from all over the globe to secure the best possible quality at the lowest possible price point. Since it’s not possible to compete on a head-to-head basis on hourly wages & benefits, our folks must work that much smarter than competitors in low cost countries. Because we’re also primarily focused in high-consequence, automotive fuel/braking and aerospace applications it is equally important that our product quality & reliability be extraordinary. The training being provided through this grant will help us further develop our people’s skills to meet these challenges head on & to continue to grow as a New Bedford business.”

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